

Request for a Determination of Eligibility
for inclusion in the National Register of
Historic Places

Requesting Agency: United States Postal Service
(J.F. Kenyon, General Manager
Real Estate Division)
Eastern Region
P.O.Box 8601
Philadelphia, PA 19101

Location: 8412 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland

Classification: Building; Public Ownership; Accessible

Historic Name: Main Post Office

Common Name: Same

Ownership: United States Postal Service (see above)

Condition: Good, minor alteration at front entrance

Area of Significance: Architecture

Date or Period: 1937

Style: Georgian Revival

Architect: Public Works Branch, Procurement Division,
United States Treasury Department, Louis A.
Simon, Supervising Architect, Neal A. Melick,
Supervising Engineer.

Representation in Existing Surveys: None

Prepared by: Russell Wright, AIA
Consultant in Historic Preservation
49 Church Street (P.O.Box 309)
Warren, Rhode Island 02885
(401)- 245-6261

April, 1981

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Old Silver Spring Post Office
AND/OR COMMON**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

8412 Georgia Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Silver Spring

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

MD

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES RESTRICTED
☐ YES UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Kora & Williams Corp.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

8412 Georgia Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Silver Spring

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

MD 20910

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Montgomery County Court House

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

M:36-11

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☐ GOOD

☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED

☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

100 100 100
100 100 100
100 100 100

100 100 100
100 100 100
100 100 100

100 100 100
100 100 100
100 100 100

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1936

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1936, the building is a prime example of the early practice of "regionalism" or local adaptation in Federal architecture. The building was specifically designed to complement in siting, style, and materials the then-existing character of Silver Spring's built environment. Like the earlier County Office Building, located on Colesville Road, and the bulk of the adjacent structures, the Silver Spring Post Office was constructed of brick and was neo-colonial in design. The building was consciously and successfully made to blend with its surroundings, to integrally fit the existing streetscape. This building has been deemed eligible for the National Register by the Maryland Historical Trust.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

M:36-11

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mark Walston

8/84

ORGANIZATION

Park Historian, MNCPPC

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

6700 Needwood Road

TELEPHONE

948-1769

CITY OR TOWN

Rockville, MD 20855

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Silver Spring Main Post Office

Description

The main post office at Silver Spring is located at 8412 Georgia Avenue, a major thoroughfare linking this community with Washington, D.C., the extreme northern boundary of which is less than 3/4's of a mile away. The flat roofed one story brick faced structure is five by five bays, with the three central bays of the front (east) facade set in a slightly projecting pavilion. The pavilion is framed by limestone quoins and paired, engaged fluted pilasters with Temple of the Winds capitals and turned bases. The three center bays have round arched openings constructed of standing stretchers with double limestone keys. The windows that flank the central entrance have 21/15 round headed double hung wood sash, with limestone sills and fluted spandrels. The entrance bay is enclosed by paired pilasters duplicating those at the ends of the pavilion, with later aluminum doors and transom flanked by flat limestone pilaster strips, paneled reveals and a carved limestone broken scroll pediment that projects into the 21 light fan. The pavilion has a limestone frieze with rosette patera over each pair of end pilasters and the inscription United States Post Office over the entrance bay. The frieze is surmounted by a modillioned limestone cornice and a balustrade of limestone urns framed by paneled end pedestals. The entrance is served by a flight of six granite stairs and a granite porch, all of which is enclosed with limestone walls. The end bays of the front elevation have rectangular openings with paneled flat limestone heads that are provided with end and center blocks. The center block at each window is enriched with carved swags and floral bosses. The 8/12 double hung wood sash rests on carved limestone sills. The extreme edges of the front (as well as the side and rear) elevations are quoined in limestone. The end bays have a flat frieze with a dentil bed mold below a carved limestone cornice with cyma-recta crown mold. There is a brick parapet with limestone cap above this cornice.

All wall surfaces are sheathed with red face brick, laid in Flemish bond. There is a limestone watertable surrounding the entire structure. The full basement is lit by windows set below grade in open lightwells, the windows protected by wrought iron grilles and screens.

The north and south end elevations are five bays in depth, the front bay projecting slightly from the rest and repeating the window and cornice details of the end bays at the front facade. The rear four bays have tall rectangular openings with splayed flat brick (standing stretchers) arches and limestone sills. The 10/15 double hung wood sash is set below a 12 light tilting transom. All windows in the side and rear elevations are of hammered glass. The four bay sections of the side elevations have a flat, unenriched limestone frieze as a string course in line with the cornice along the end bays at the front facade, and repeat the brick parapet with limestone cap.

Silver Spring,
Description, 2

Interior

The interior is original but is of little significance except for a mural (see below). The lobby has a quarry tile floor, polished granite wainscot, plaster walls and ceiling, with reeded engaged pilasters and a stepped fascia Art Moderne cornice. Floors in the offices and in the workroom are wood block, the walls and ceilings plaster, all of standard post office design and construction for this period.

The mural (5'6" x 16') is attached directly to the wall surface above the Postmaster's office in the south part of the public lobby. Entitled "The Old Tavern", it is oil on canvas, and was executed in 1937 by Nicolai Cikovsky (see attached sheet) at the cost of \$ 900.

Location

The Silver Spring Post Office is located two-blocks south of what has developed as the high rise major office and retail core of this rapidly expanding community. Mid-block between Bonifant Street and Wayne Avenue, the structure is set back from the street and flanked by a service drive (south) and a narrow landscaped open space (north). North of the post office are a row of three similar two-story masonry commercial structures, the northern section retaining most of its 1930's Art Deco detailing, the other two-thirds greatly altered and now in use as a printing company. The area south of the post office is occupied by four commercial structures, the north building c.1930's, the middle two c. late 1920's, all one-story, and the south building a two-story retail/office structure built in 1946. None of these structures, with the possible exception of the northernmost Art Deco building is of architectural significance.

The east side of Georgia Avenue is visually and physically unrelated to the post office street frontage because of the street's width (eight lanes, divided) and the traffic volume of this primary street. The east frontage is made up of a three-story brick and pressed tin Masonic Temple (1927) of minor significance at the north end, an altered one-story c.1930's commercial structure, two two-story brick commercial structures (c.1940's) and a badly altered two-story bank, c.1950's. There is no local or National Register historic district at this time, nor is one pending or contemplated.

Silver SpringSignificance

The Silver Spring Post Office was designed by the Public Works Branch, Procurement Division, United States Treasury Department under Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect and Neal A. Melick, Supervising Engineer. Construction began shortly after the 15,000 square foot site was purchased in June, 1937 at the cost of \$ 20,000. The new structure was to replace facilities leased in various buildings across Georgia Avenue that had served this small bedroom community of Washington D.C. before the advent of WW II and its attendant construction boom at the many suburban towns that ringed the District. Silver Spring is now served by four other post offices and a new main post office is scheduled to open in late 1981. A cast bronze plaque in the lobby relates that "This building was erected under the Act of Congress dated August 12, 1935 and was completed during the administration of Franklin Delano Roosevelt....in 1937".

As such, the post office was built under the aegis of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) created as part of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935, and its predecessor, the Public Works Administration (created in 1933 to fund Federal building projects). A 1939 publication documenting the work of the PWA (Public Buildings: Architecture under the Public Works Administration, 1933-1939, by C.W. Short and R. Stanley-Brown, USGPO) states that "the main purpose of the creation of the PWA was to increase employment of labor in the construction of permanent and useful public projects and in the building industries and the factories which supply building materials". The Silver Spring Post Office fits this plan, especially with regard to needed public facilities, but it is impossible to assess the impact that this construction project may have had on the rest of the local community. Few if any records of a comparative nature were kept by this small (1940 population, 7500) community prior to WW II, a town described in the Maryland American Guide Series: "Most of its residents are Government workers. It has a modern shopping district and a few small manufacturing concerns".

It would appear, however, that the introduction of Georgian Revival to this street had little impact on, or was in any way a reflection of the design preferences of the 1930-1940 developers of Silver Spring. The "modern shopping district" mentioned in the WPA Guide is an excellent example of an Art Moderne-Art Deco commercial center, and many of the other commercial buildings in the immediate vicinity are of this style or other 'modern' idioms. The best building in the post office block is the eclectic Masonic Temple (1927) across Georgia Avenue, predating the post office. The only other structure of architectural interest is the three part structure north of the post office, with its Art Deco detailing visible in the right one-third section. Perhaps the rationale for the choice of Georgian Revival for the facade of what is a stock plan for a postal facility of this size,

can be explained by a passage in the book "Public Buildings" cited above: "Traditional design predominates in Federal work (as opposed to privately designed projects funded under the PWA program) although some trend towards the 'modern' may be noted....less a copying of a given style, they have instilled new life into it by the use of new materials or new motifs and have thereby given it a freshness which protects it against the charges of being archeology".

While it may be argued that the PWA funding for the construction of the new postal facility (1937) acted in a positive way as "pump priming" and to stimulate local area recovery, the modest size of the structure and the phenomenal construction activity in the area immediately prior to WW II, which had started before the decision to build the post office was made makes this a minor point. It appears that the overriding factor for the construction of the new post office was one of need, with pump priming a secondary benefit. At any rate, the decision to use the Georgian Revival for the front facade was, in retrospect, less fortunate. Most of the then downtown Silver Spring was representative of the 1930-1940's preference towards the "modern". The Silver Spring Post Office is a rather weakly proportioned, poorly detailed example of the Georgian Revival as being used in the monumental public buildings of that period, especially in neighboring Washington where the Classic Revival was so important. Here, the post office plays the role of an architectural curiosity, and is considered to be of little if any significance as an example of its supposed style or of as an example of PWA/WPA construction during the decade 1931-1940.

A search of the files and records maintained at the Montgomery County Historical Society library (Rockville, Maryland), including the Montgomery County Sentinel newspaper for the years 1936-1937 failed to identify any historic or associative events or personages connected with the post office at Georgia Avenue. It is not listed in the "Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County (Montgomery County Planning Board of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission) nor is it included in a MNCPPC architectural survey conducted in 1967-1968, the Preliminary Master Plan-Silver Spring Planning Area (1969) or the Silver Spring Bicentennial Supplement to The Record (12/3/76). As stated, there is no local or state interest in setting up a historic district in the post office area.

The mural is the result of a competition conducted by the Section of Fine Arts, Federal Works Agency, PWA and represents an "Old Tavern" at Silver Springs during the Civil War period. Nicolai Cikovsky was a Russian immigrant who became a US citizen in 1924. Other works of his include murals at the US Department of the Interior and at the post office in Towson, Maryland, both executed under PWA. The mural is oil on canvas, clued to the wall over the office door in the south part of the lobby. It can be removed if required.

SECTION OF FINE ARTSMURAL PAINTING BY NICOLAI CIKOVSKY"THE OLD TAVERN"

Silver Spring
Maryland
Post Office

This mural, oil on canvas, was executed by Nicolai Cikovsky of Washington, D. C. Mr. Cikovsky won his commission as a result of competent designs submitted in a Section of Fine Arts Competition. Placed over the Postmaster's door, this painting shows the "Old Tavern" at Silver Spring, Maryland, in Civil War days.

Note on the
Artist

Mr. Cikovsky was born in Russia in 1894. He studied at the Vilna Art School from 1910 to 1913 and at the Penza Royal Art School from 1914-1918, going later to the Moscow Technical Art Institute where he spent three years. Mr. Cikovsky came to America in 1923 and became a United States citizen in 1924. Before coming to America he taught in Russia for one year and since coming to this country he has taught in St. Paul, Minnesota and at the Cincinnati Art Academy. He is now instructor at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D. C. His paintings have been purchased for the permanent collections of the following museums: Chicago Art Institute, Pennsylvania Academy of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Worcester, St. Louis, Milwaukee and Kansas City Museums. Other paintings for the Section of Fine Arts executed by Mr. Cikovsky are murals for the Department of Interior Building (New), Washington, D. C., and for the Towson, Maryland, Post Office.

Section of
Fine Arts

The aim of the Section of Fine Arts is to secure murals and sculpture of distinguished quality appropriate to the embellishment of Federal buildings. Approximately 1% of the total of limit of cost of the buildings is reserved for this decoration. The Section holds open anonymous competitions, national, regional, state or local. A different jury of painters or sculptors, unattached to the Section, judges each competition. The jury members are selected on the basis of experience and knowledge. They are called upon to judge the intrinsic quality of the painting or the sculpture and its relationship to its setting.

SECTION OF FINE ARTS, FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
PUBLIC BUILDINGS ADMINISTRATION

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M
36-11

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC U.S. Post Office

AND/OR COMMON

RECEIVED

FEB 14 1980

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

8412 Georgia Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Silver Spring

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland 20907

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☒ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

U.S. Postal Service, Easter Region

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 8601

Attn: C.A. Preston Jr.

CITY, TOWN

Philadelphia

VICINITY OF

Pa. 19101

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

M:36-11

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a one story, five bay, red brick(flemish) bond and limestone building with double hung windows of varying lights. Limestone rusticated quoins frame the building. The cornice, also of limestone, contains both dentals and modellions. The roof is flat(composition) and limestone pilasters frame the main windows and doorway, while a swan's neck pediment is over the main doorway. The door itself has been replaced with an aluminan one. No additions have been added, except for a loading dock in the rear.

The interior lobby has not been altered as the original vestibule is still in use. Detailed plaster work remains in the ceiling and a large mural hangs over the door to the Postmaster's Office.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1937

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Louis Simon, Supervising Architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Neal A. Melick, " Engineer

The significance is both local and national. The building represents an excellent expression of the Federal government's desire to place architecturally important buildings in small communities during the New Deal era. In this case it appears to be the only such structure to have survived the rapid expansion of the post-World War II years that has changed the face of this once small town. The area is currently growing as a regional commercial district and a number of rather large high rise buildings have been constructed in the immediate area since 1970. As early as 1971 local postal officials reported that this building was too small for anything but offices.

In a quick survey of the immediate area the building appears to be the only one with any classical details. If not used by the Postal Service it could be destroyed for the land that it occupies. In that case it would be replaced by either a high-rise office building or by apartments which are already directly to the rear of the present structure.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joseph P. O'Grady

ORGANIZATION

Joseph P. O'Grady and Associates

DATE

2/2/1980

STREET & NUMBER

307 French Road

ac 215

353-4040

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Newtown Square

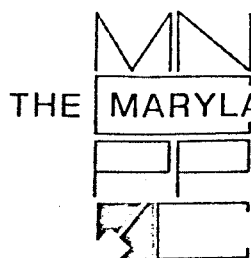
STATE

Pa. 19073.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

8787 Georgia Avenue • Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760

M: 36-11

RECEIVED

July 5, 1985

JUL 11 1985

TO: Richard Ferrara, Director
Department of Housing and Community Development
John L. Menke, Director
Department of Environmental Protection
✓ J. Rodney Little, Director
State Historic Preservation Office
Priscilla Schwab, Chairperson
Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Melissa C. Banach, Coordinator
Community Planning North MCB.

SUBJECT: Final Draft Amendment to the Master Plan for
Historic Preservation: Silver Spring CBD Individual
Historic Sites

MARYLAND HISTORICAL
TRUST

I am pleased to transmit to you this Final Draft Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

This document contains the recommendation of the Montgomery County Planning Board on the designation of several individual historic sites within the Silver Spring Central Business District.

Should you have any questions concerning this amendment, please do not hesitate to contact Marty Reinhart of Community Planning North staff at 495-4565.

MCB:MR:lyg
Attachment

FINAL DRAFT
AMENDMENT TO THE MASTER PLAN FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SILVER SPRING CBD INDIVIDUAL HISTORIC SITES

JUNE 1985

A proposed Amendment to the 1979 Approved and Adopted Master Plan for Historic Preservation in Montgomery County, Maryland and an amendment to the Approved and Adopted Sector Plan for the Silver Spring Central Business District and Vicinity 1979; being also an amendment to the General Plan for the Physical Development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District and to the Master Plan of Highways within Montgomery County, Maryland.

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3760

14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3090

ABSTRACT

TITLE: Final Draft Amendment to the Approved and Adopted Master Plan for Historic Preservation in Montgomery County, Maryland: Silver Spring CBD Individual Historic Sites

AUTHOR: The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

SUBJECT: Final Draft Amendment to the Approved and Adopted Master Plan for Historic Preservation in Montgomery County Maryland: Silver Spring CBD Individual Historic Sites

DATE: June 1985

PLANNING AGENCY: The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

SOURCE OF COPIES: The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20907

SERIES NUMBER: 8048852506

NUMBER OF PAGES: 4

ABSTRACT: This publication contains the text, with supporting map, for an Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation in Montgomery County, which is an Amendment to the Sector Plan for the Silver Spring Central Business District and Vicinity, the General Plan for the Physical Development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District, and the Master Plan of Highways within Montgomery County, Maryland. This Amendment designates several properties within the CBD as individual Historic Sites to be protected under the County's Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code.

It is the intent of the Master Plan and Ordinance to provide a rational system for evaluating, protecting and enhancing Montgomery County's heritage for the benefit of present and future residents. The accompanying challenge is to weave protection of this heritage into the County's planning program so as to maximize community support for preservation and minimize infringement on private property rights.

FINAL DRAFT AMENDMENT
TO
THE MASTER PLAN FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION:
SILVER SPRING CBD INDIVIDUAL HISTORIC SITES

The purpose of this amendment is to designate the following sites on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation thereby extending to them the protection of the Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code:

<u>Site</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Associated Acreage</u>
#36/5	The Silver Spring/Acorn Urban Park and East West Highway	Blair Mill Road	0.1 acre
-	Site of the original spring which is of symbolic importance to the community, being the site from which the town supposedly derives its name.		
-	The Park's acorn gazebo, originally from the farm of Francis Preston Blair, founder of Silver Spring, is a good surviving example of the picturesque garden furniture popular on the estates of the wealthy during the 19th century.		
#36/6	Jesup Blair House/Local Park	900 Jesup Blair Drive	14.46 acres
-	Circa 1850--Unusually sophisticated two story frame house incorporating elements of Federal and Greek Revival styling and featuring a hipped roof with cupola, wooden quoin blocks, a molded architrave and pilasters framing the front entrance.		
-	Originally known as "the Moorings" the house was constructed as a summer residence for the prestigious Blair family, influential settlers and developers of the Silver Spring area.		
#36/11	Old Silver Spring Post Office	8412 Georgia Avenue	16,714 sq.ft.
-	Constructed in 1936-37 this building is one of three distinctive federal post offices built in the County during the Depression under the aegis of the Work Progress Administration (WPA).		
-	This amendment recognizes that the zoning on the property permits an intensification of development for the site. If redeveloped, the intention of designation is to seek the preservation and integration of the labor intensive		

architectural features incorporated in the Georgia Avenue facade which are reflective of the role of the WPA in stimulating employment in the construction trades.

#36/14

Armory Place

925 Wayne Avenue

1.6 acres

- Representative example of early 20 century Armory architecture featuring distinctive medieval architectural affinities.
- Associated with Captain Frank Hewitt, Sr. and Colonel E. Brooke Lee, two of the founding fathers of modern Silver Spring.

M:36-11

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated March 1986

ACTION TAKEN

M: 36/5	Silver Spring/Acorn Urban Park & East West Highway
M: 36/6	Jesup Blair House-Local Park
M: 36/11	Old Silver Spring Post Office
M: 36/14	Armory Place

Amendment to Master Plan
Silver Spring CBD Individual Historic Sites

The purpose of this amendment is to designate these sites
on the Master Plan.



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated July 5, 1985

ACTION TAKEN

Final Draft Amendment...to designate the following sites on the Master Plan thereby extending to them the protection of the Historic Preservation Ordinance:

- M: 36/5.....Silver Spring/Acorn Urban Park and East West Highway
- M: 36/6.....Jesup Blair House/Local Park
- M: 36/11.....Old Silver Spring Post Office
- M: 36/14.....Armory Place

APPENDIX

SITES NOT RECOMMENDED FOR REGULATION UNDER THE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE CHAPTER 24A OF THE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CODE

The following sites have been reviewed and found not suitable for regulation under the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Those sites also listed on The Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County, Maryland will no longer be subject to regulation under the Moratorium on Alteration and Demolition, Section 24A-10 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Although removed from the Locational Atlas, these sites will remain on the Maryland Historical Trust's State Inventory.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
36/16	Little Tavern	8230 Georgia Avenue
36/17	Old Masonic Temple	8435-39 Georgia Avenue

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
SITTING AS THE DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THAT PORTION
OF THE MARYLAND-WASHINGTON REGIONAL DISTRICT
WITHIN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

M.36-11

By: District Council

Subject: Amendment to the Approved and Adopted Master Plan for Historic Preservation in Montgomery County, Maryland re: Silver Spring CBD Individual Historic Sites

Background

1. On July 12, 1985, the Montgomery County Planning Board transmitted to the Montgomery County Council a Final Draft Amendment to the Historic Preservation Master Plan to designate the following as individual historic sites in the Silver Spring CBD:

<u>Site</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Associated Acreage</u>
#36/5	The Silver Spring/Acorn Urban Park and East West Highway	Blair Mill Road	0.1 acre
#36/6	Jesup Blair House/Local Park	900 Jesup Blair Drive	14.46 acres
#36/11	Old Silver Spring Post Office	8412 Georgia Avenue	16,714 sq. ft.
#36/14	Armory Place	925 Wayne Avenue	1.6 acres

2. The Final Draft Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation concerning Silver Spring CBD individual historic sites also recommends the following sites as not suitable for regulation under the Historic Preservation Ordinance and to be removed from the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County, Maryland:

with cupola, wooden quoin blocks, a molded architrave and pilasters framing the front entrance.

- Originally known as "The Moorings," the house was constructed as a summer residence for the prestigious Blair family, influential settlers and developers of the Silver Spring area.

#36/11

Old Silver Spring
Post Office

8412 Georgia Ave. 16,714 sq.ft.

- Constructed in 1936-37 this building is one of three distinctive federal post offices built in the County during the Depression under the aegis of the Work Progress Administration (WPA).
- This amendment recognizes that the zoning on the property permits an intensification of development for the site. If redeveloped, the intention of designation is to seek the preservation and integration of the labor intensive architectural features incorporated in the Georgia Avenue facade which are reflective of the role of the WPA in stimulating employment in the construction trades.

#36/14

Armory Place

925 Wayne Avenue

1.6 acres

- Representative example of early 20th century Armory architecture featuring distinctive medieval architectural affinities.
- Associated with Captain Frank Hewitt, Sr. and Colonel E. Brooke Lee, two of the founding fathers of modern Silver Spring.


1. The following sites are designated on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation:

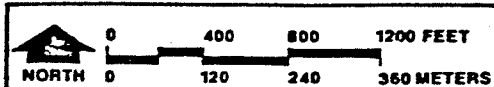
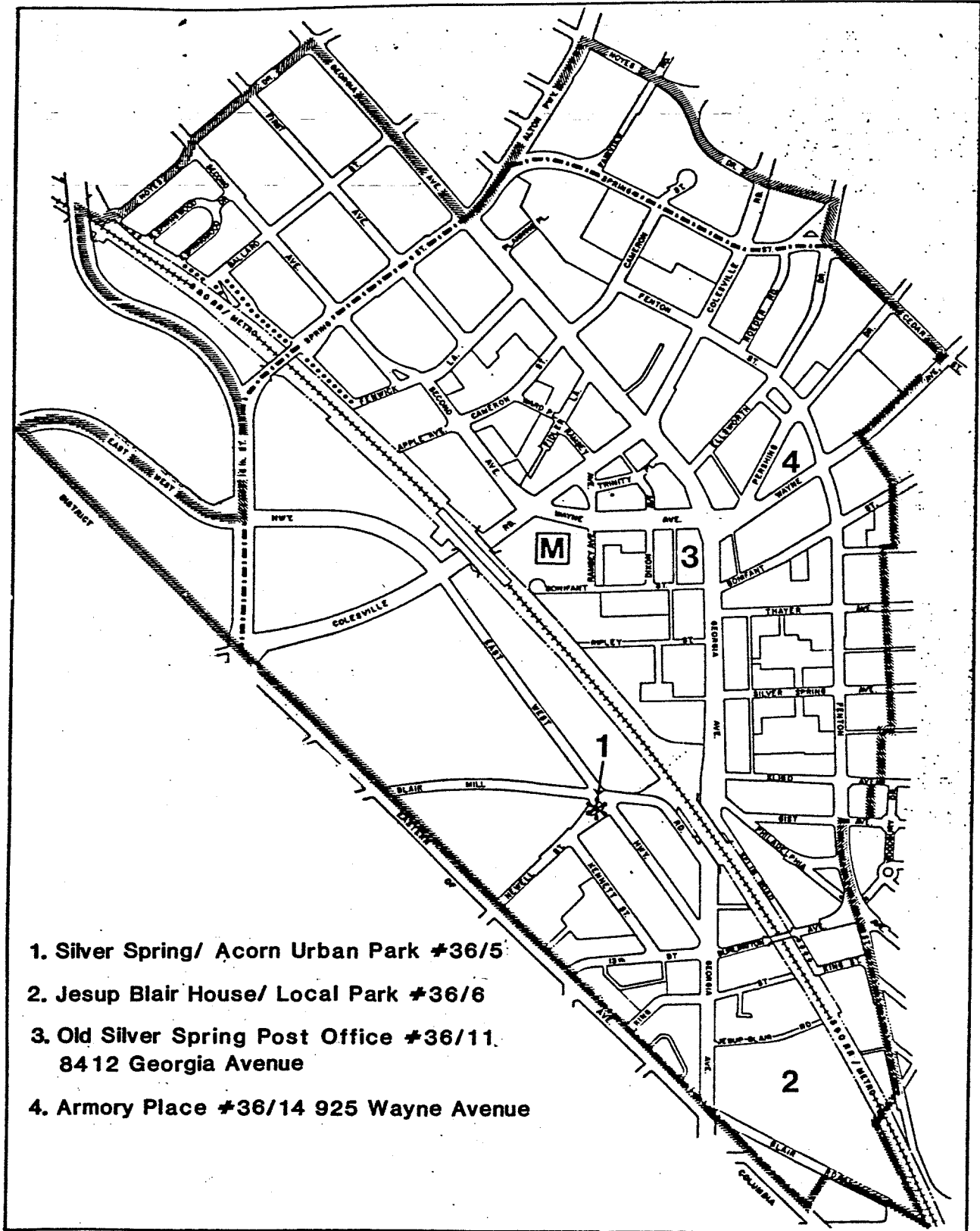
<u>Site</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Associated Acreage</u>
#36/5	The Silver Spring/Acorn Urban Park and East West Highway	Blair Mill Road	0.1 acre
#36/6	Jesup Blair House/Local Park	900 Jesup Blair Drive	14.46 acres
#36/11	Old Silver Spring Post Office	8412 Georgia Avenue	16,714 sq. ft.
#36/14	Armory Place	925 Wayne Avenue	1.6 acres

2. The following sites are found as not suitable for regulation under the Historic Preservation Ordinance and removed from the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County, Maryland:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Little Tavern	8230 Georgia Avenue
Old Masonic Temple	8435-39 Georgia Avenue

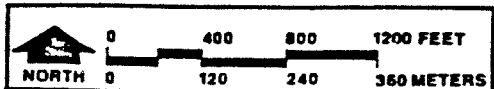
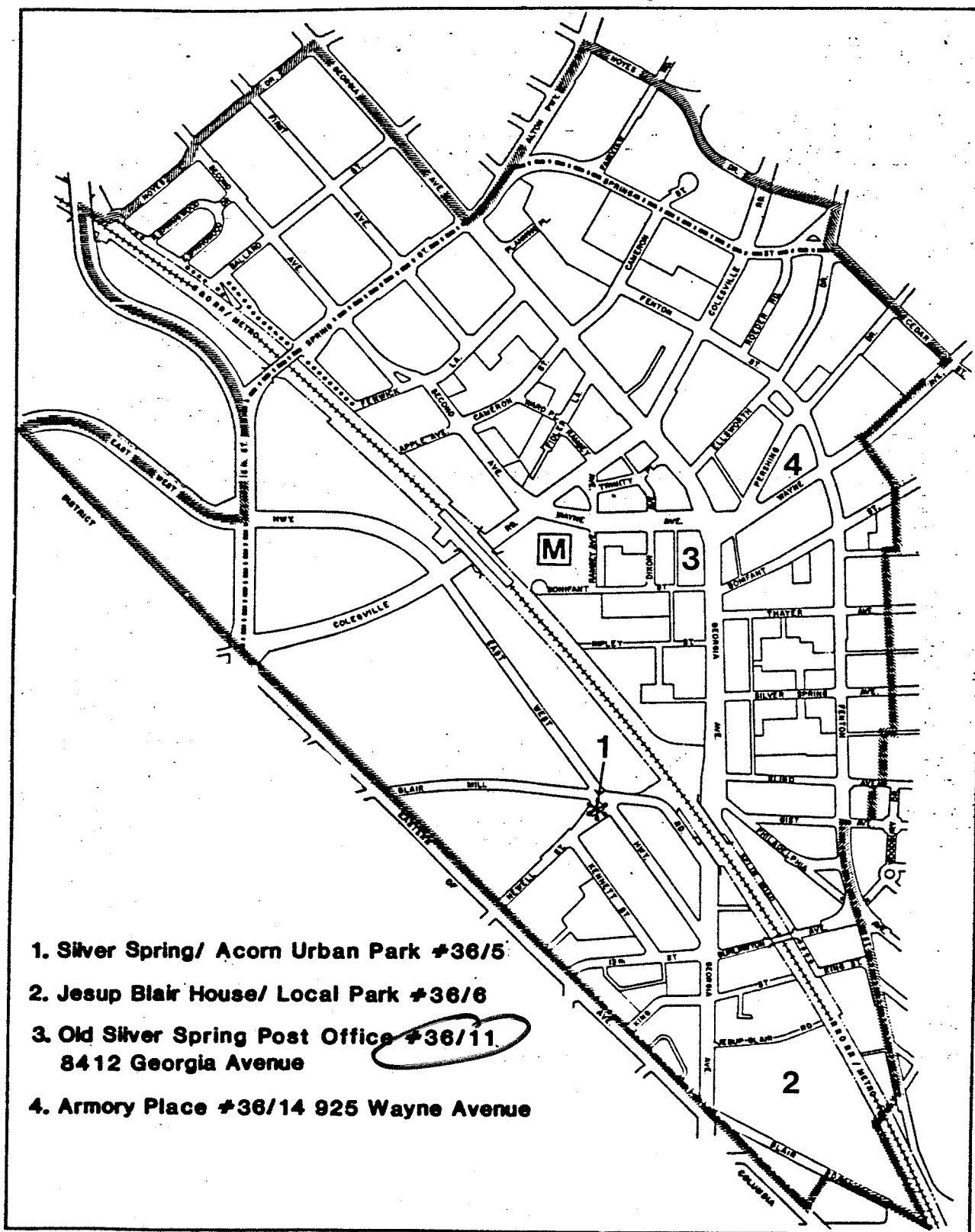
This is a correct copy of Council action.


Kathleen A. Freedman, Secretary
County Council



Silver Spring CBD
Individual Historic Sites

1



Silver Spring CBD
Individual Historic Sites

1

map from Bobbi Hahn
15 May 87

Atlas boundaries Silver Spring Post Office
8412 Georgia Avenue (MD 97)

M: 36-11

M: 36-7

Montgomery Arms
8700-8722 Colesville

Fenton Building
8701-8719 Colesville

36-7-2

J.C. Penney's 1952

Hahn Shoes 1944

Silver Spring
Historic
District

Bus Station
817 Ellsworth

Hecht Co. 1947
Citizens Savings
Bank & Wallpaper Store
8584-89 Fenton
Silver Theater 1938

36-7-1

Silver Spring Shopping
Center, 1938

36/14 New Armory 1927
925 Wayne Ave.

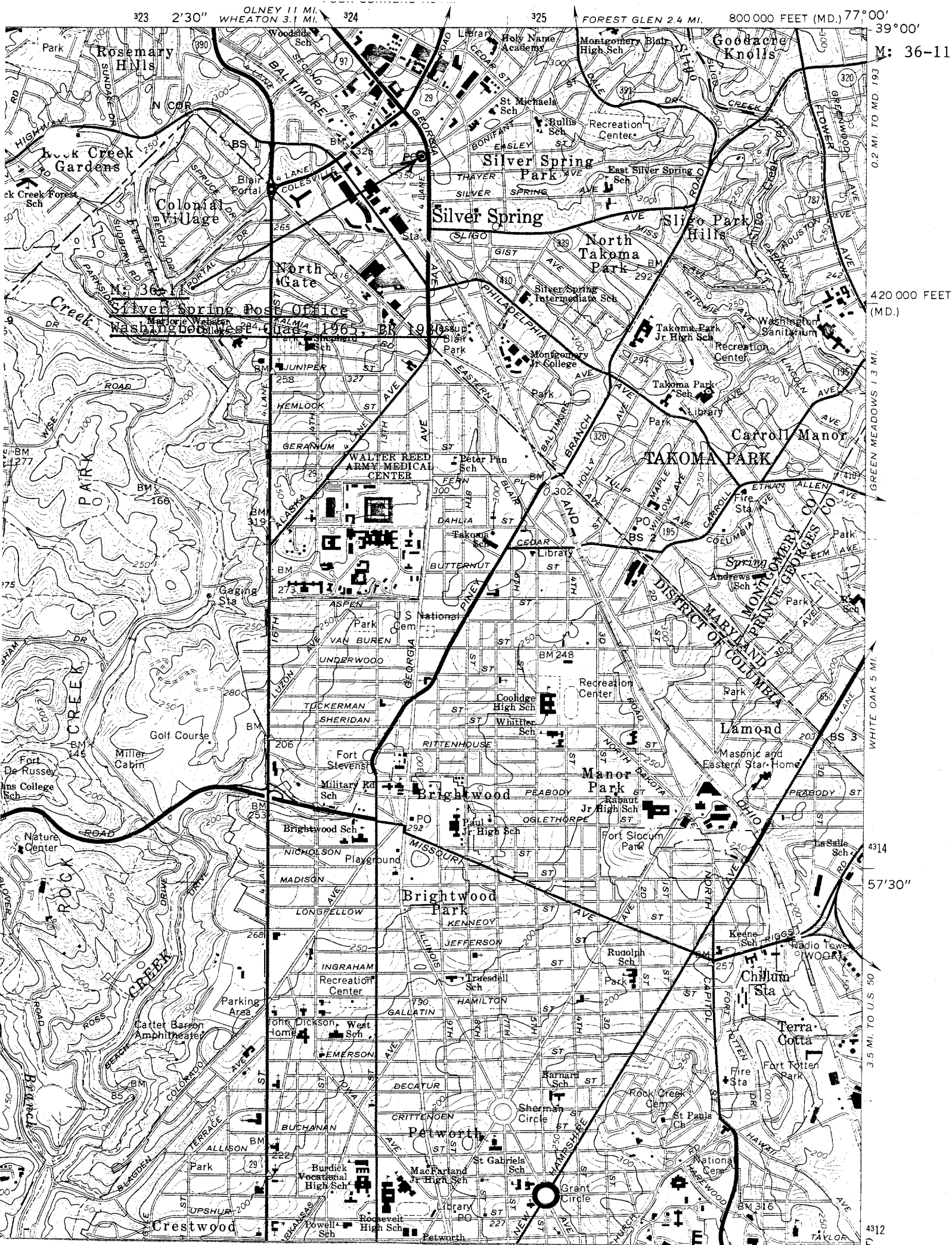
36/13 Tastee Diner 1946
8516 Georgia Ave.

36/17 Masonic Temple 1927
8435-39 Georgia Ave.

36/11 Silver Spring Post Office 1936
8412 Georgia Ave.

36/16 Little Tavern, c. 1940
8230 Georgia Ave.







Silver Spring, Maryland, Main Post Office, front (east) elevation

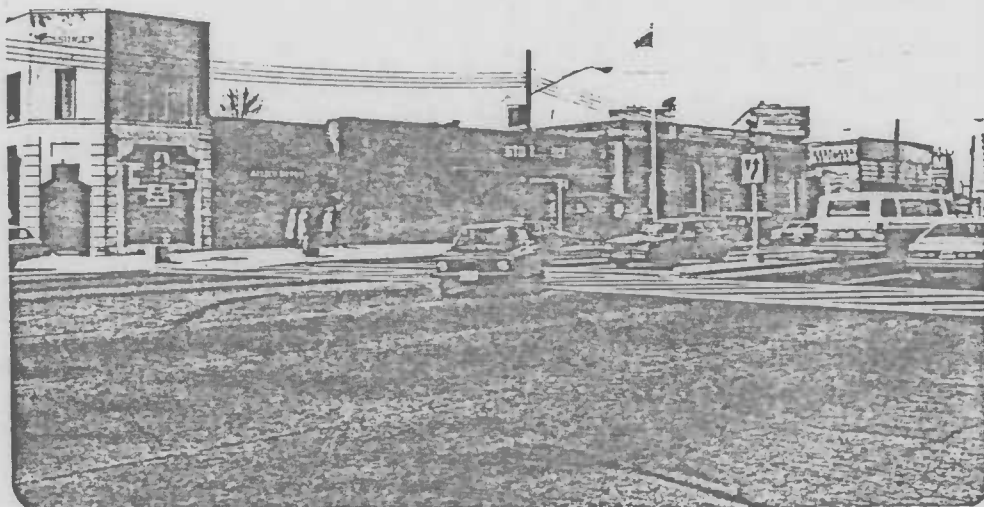
M:36-11

Silver Spring, Georgia Avenue, north of Post Office

M36-11



Silver Spring, Georgia Avenue, south of Post Office



M:36-11

CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

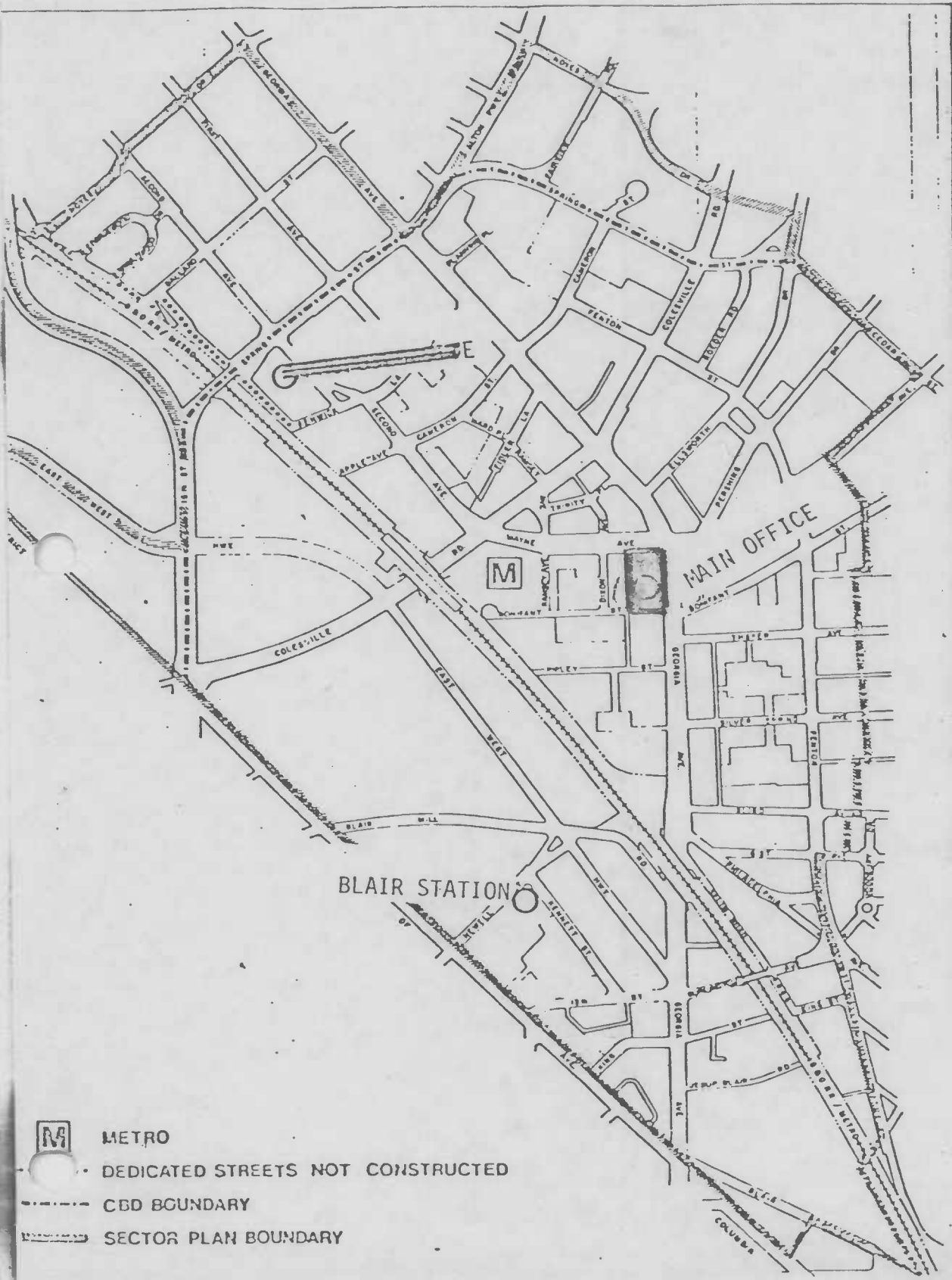


EXHIBIT I

EXHIBIT II

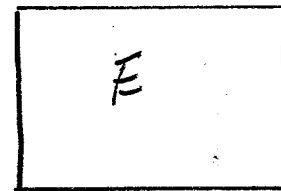
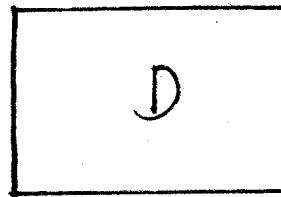
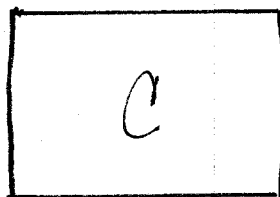
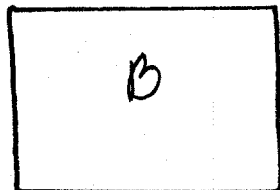
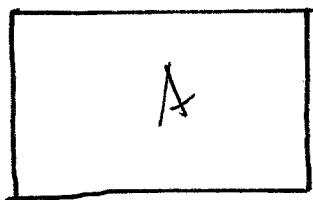
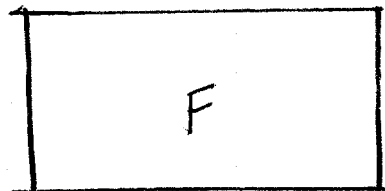
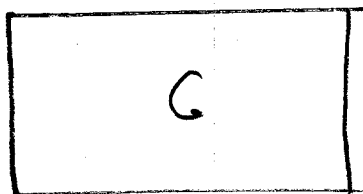
EXHIBIT III

EXHIBIT IV

EXHIBIT V

M:36-11

Photo Layout
Selmer Spring





A

M; 36-11



B

M! 36-11



C

M: 36-11



The Marines

D

M: 36-11



E

MA: 36-11



F

M: 36-11



G

M: 36-11